

**Preliminary Amendment**

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Applicant(s): Wayne K. DUNSHEE

Serial No.: 09/847,941

Filed: 2 May 2001

For: TAPERED STRETCH REMOVABLE ADHESIVE ARTICLES AND METHODS

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A1 6,083,856 (Joseph et al.). - -

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Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 19, line 13, with the following rewritten paragraph. Per 37 C.F.R. §1.121, this paragraph is also shown in Appendix A with notations to indicate the changes made.

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A2 - - As discussed in U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/847,942, filed herewith and titled PRESSURE SENSITIVE ADHESIVES WITH A REINFORCING MATERIAL, one preferred pressure sensitive adhesive is in the form of a nonwoven web of pressure sensitive adhesive fibers. The fibers include a pressure sensitive adhesive component and an organic polymeric reinforcing material. The reinforced pressure sensitive adhesive fibers typically have a diameter of no greater than about 100 micrometers and are useful in making coherent nonwoven webs that can be used in making a wide variety of products. Preferably, such fibers have a diameter of no greater than about 50 micrometers, and often, no greater than about 25 micrometers. Fibers of no greater than about 50 micrometers are often referred to as "microfibers." - -

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Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 23, line 16, with the following rewritten paragraph. Per 37 C.F.R. §1.121, this paragraph is also shown in Appendix A with notations to indicate the changes made.

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A3 - - As discussed in U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/847,942, filed herewith and titled PRESSURE SENSITIVE ADHESIVES WITH A REINFORCING MATERIAL various organic polymeric reinforcing materials can be used in the preferred fibers of the preferred pressure sensitive adhesives as described in that application. In preferred embodiments, the reinforcing material is an organic elastomeric material. Preferably, the reinforcing material includes a semi-crystalline polymer. A semi-crystalline polymer is one having both amorphous and crystalline domains. Many specific embodiments incorporate semi-crystalline polymers, such as polycaprolactone (PCL), polybutene (PB), copolymers derived from ethylene and at least

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one other alpha-olefin monomer (e.g., poly(ethylene-co-1-alkene) and poly(ethylene-co-1-alkene-co-1-alkene), such as metallocene-catalyzed polyolefin polymers ENGAGE 8400 commercially available from DuPont Dow Elastomers and EXACT 4023, EXACT 3040, and EXACT 3024, all of which are commercially available from ExxonMobil Co.), ultra low density polyethylene (e.g., having a density below 0.915 grams/cubic centimeter, such as ATTANE 4202 commercially available from Dow Chemical Co.), linear low density polyethylene (e.g., having a density between 0.915 and 0.94 grams/cubic centimeter, such as LL-3003, ECD-125, 377D60, 369G09, 363C32, 361C33, 357C32, 350D65, 350D64, 350D60, LL-3013, and LL-3001 commercially available from Exxon-Mobil Corp., and ASPUN 6806 commercially available from Dow Chemical Co.), or combinations thereof. Preferred reinforcing material includes one or more metallocene-catalyzed polyolefins, such as copolymers derived from ethylene and at least one other alpha-olefin monomer. - -

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Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 28, line 22, with the following rewritten paragraph. Per 37 C.F.R. §1.121, this paragraph is also shown in Appendix A with notations to indicate the changes made.

A4 - - [As discussed in U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/847,942, filed herewith and titled PRESSURE SENSITIVE ADHESIVES WITH A REINFORCING MATERIAL, a preferred backing may be one that includes an extensible nonwoven web made of fibers, preferably melt-blown microfibers. Each of the fibers have at least two substantially continuous layers throughout the fiber length. The layers include at least one first layer of a low modulus material and at least one second layer of a relatively nonelastic higher modulus material capable of undergoing substantial permanent deformation. Examples of such backings are described in U.S. Patent No. 6,107,219 (Joseph et al.). Preferably, the layers are concentric or longitudinally layered. In certain embodiments, the fibers include an outer sheath layer that includes the at least one first layer and at least one internal core layer comprising the at least one second layer. Examples of materials suitable for the outer sheath layer include a polyurethane metallocene-catalyzed polyolefins, and A-B-A block copolymers, such as KRATON copolymers available

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from Shell Chemical Ltd.; Houston, TX, as well as blends thereof. Examples of materials suitable for the internal core layer include polyolefins, polyesters, ethylene vinyl acetate, as well as blends thereof. A preferred internal core layer is a blend of polyethylenes, preferably a linear low density polyethylene and a metallocene-catalyzed polyolefin, preferably in a ratio of 50:50. -